

Message Text

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51

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

USSS-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 IO-15 NSC-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-10

A-01 OC-06 EB-11 EUR-25 ABF-01 FS-01 SS-20 /144 W

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O 121745Z OCT 73 ZFF-4

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3983

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3072

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR EG

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE DEPARTURE OF
AMERICAN TOURISTS IN EGYPT

REF: ATHENS 7096

1. MEETING WITH AMERICANS WENT REASONABLY WELL AND LARGE
MAJORITY WANT TO LEVAE BY SHIP. FIRES HAVE BEEN FUELED BY
SEVERAL VERY NERVOUS AMERICANS WITH ISRAELI RELATIVES. I TOLD
THEM I HAD ASKED FOR SHIP AND EXPECTED IT LATE MONDAY
OR TUESDAY.

2. BENGHAZI BUSING STILL SNARLED WITH BUREAUCRATIC DETAILS,
BUT WE BELIEVE THAT SOME TOURISTS WILL MANAGE TO DEPART
THIS WAY BEGINNING TOMORROW.

3. LIBYAN EMBASSY HAS GIVEN SOME SUPPORT, BUT NOW TELLING
INDIVIDUAL TOURISTS WHO APPLY FOR VISAS THAT PASSPORT
MUST BE IN ARABIC AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO
DO SO. SIGNALS VERY MIXED BUT IN LIGHT OF DEPARTMENT'S
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CHANGE IN POLICY, I HAVE INSTRUCTED CONSULAR OFFICER TO

PLACE ARABIC STAMP IN PASSPORT WHEN NECESSARY. (CANADIANS HAVE LOANED US A STAMP.) WE CANNOT HAVE PEOPLE BEING PUSHED FROM ONE OFFICE TO ANOTHER. SOME AGENTS AND EGYPTAIR ARE GETTING VISAS WITHOUT TRANSLATION SO WE WILL PROCEED BOTH WAYS.

4. APPRECIATE TRIPOLI'S OFFER OF CONSULAR ASSISTANCE. WILL INFORM BUS ETA AS KNOWN. EGYPTAIR BENGHAZI SHOULD ALSO KNOW ETAS.

5. SINCE MOST TOURISTS WANT TO LEAVE BY SHIP, WE WILL START PROCESSING THEM TOMORROW, BUT I HOPE DELTA ROAD (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS SUFFERED SOME DAMAGE) AND ALEXANDRIA PORT WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL TUESDAY.

6. SO FAR MOST AMERICANS AND A FEW CANADIANS, SPANISH AND SWISS WANT TO BOOK ON SHIP. HOW DO WE HANDLE DETAILS OF COST? ONE SUGGESTION WOULD BE TO CHARGE OTHER GOVERNMENTS (SUCH AS CANADIAN) ACCORDING TO PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PASSENGERS THEIR CITIZENS REPRESENT. ONE EXCEPTION MIGHT BE SPANISH. THEY HAVE OFFERED TO PAY, BUT BELIEVE OUR DEBT TO THEM AS OUR PROTECTING POWER MAY BE LESSENERED BY GIVING THOSE FEW SPANISH TOURISTS WHO WANT TO LEAVE-- LESS THAN THIRTY--A FREE RIDE.

7. COULD ATHENS PROVIDE CONSULAR OFFICER TO REMAIN WITH "ADONIS" AND ASSIST PROCESSING PASSENGERS? WE WILL BE UNABLE TO OFFER MORE THAN HELP OF EGYPTIAN LOCAL DIRECTOR OF AMCONGEN ALEXANDRIA OFFICE AFTER THEY LEAVE CAIRO. GOE HAS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN FOREIGN DIPLOMATS FROM MOVING OUTSIDE OF THEIR RESIDENT POSTS.

8. WORKING ON BUSING CAIRO-ALEXANDRIA AND WILL SUPPLY CONVOY TIMES WHEN SHIP ETA CONFIRMED.

9. PLEASE SUPPLY FISCAL DATA FOR BUS CHARTERS.
SMITH

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